








DIRECTIONS

From the intersection of Route 275 and Route 195, head south on Route 195 for 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Clover Mill Road. Go .1 miles and turn right onto Clover Mill Road. Go .5 miles; parking is on right.

Suggested Park Activities

-  Hiking
-  Picnicking
-  Fishing
-  Canoeing
-  X-C Skiing
-  Mountain Biking
-  Swimming (Bicentennial Pond)

Prohibited Park Activities

Unleashed Dogs
Motor Biking
Camping / Camp Fires
Horseback Riding



**Mansfield
Parks &
Recreation**

10 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield CT 06268
860 429-3015 • fax 860 429-9773
www.mansfieldct.org/parksandpreserves/
email: preserves@mansfieldct.org

Made possible through a grant from the
National Recreational Trails Program,
the Federal Highway Administration,
and the Connecticut Department
of Environmental Protection



For up-to-date trail information click on
www.mansfieldct.org/trailguides/

Schoolhouse Brook Park

Mansfield, CT

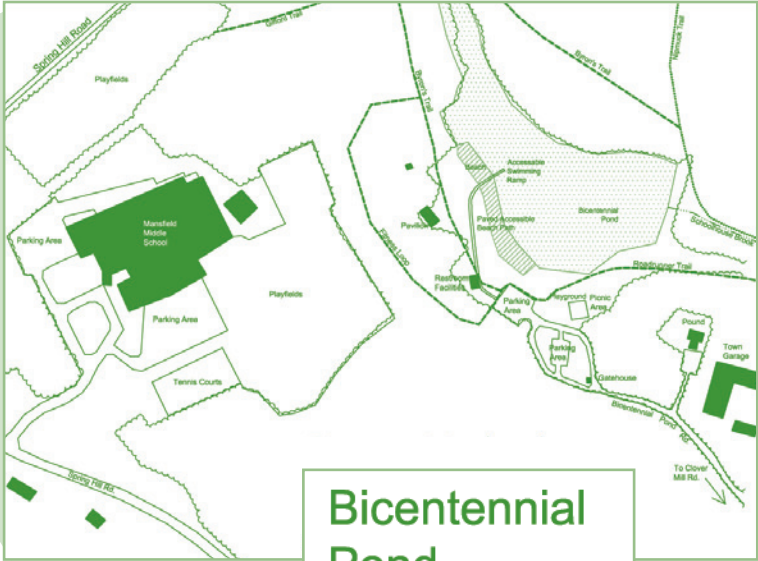
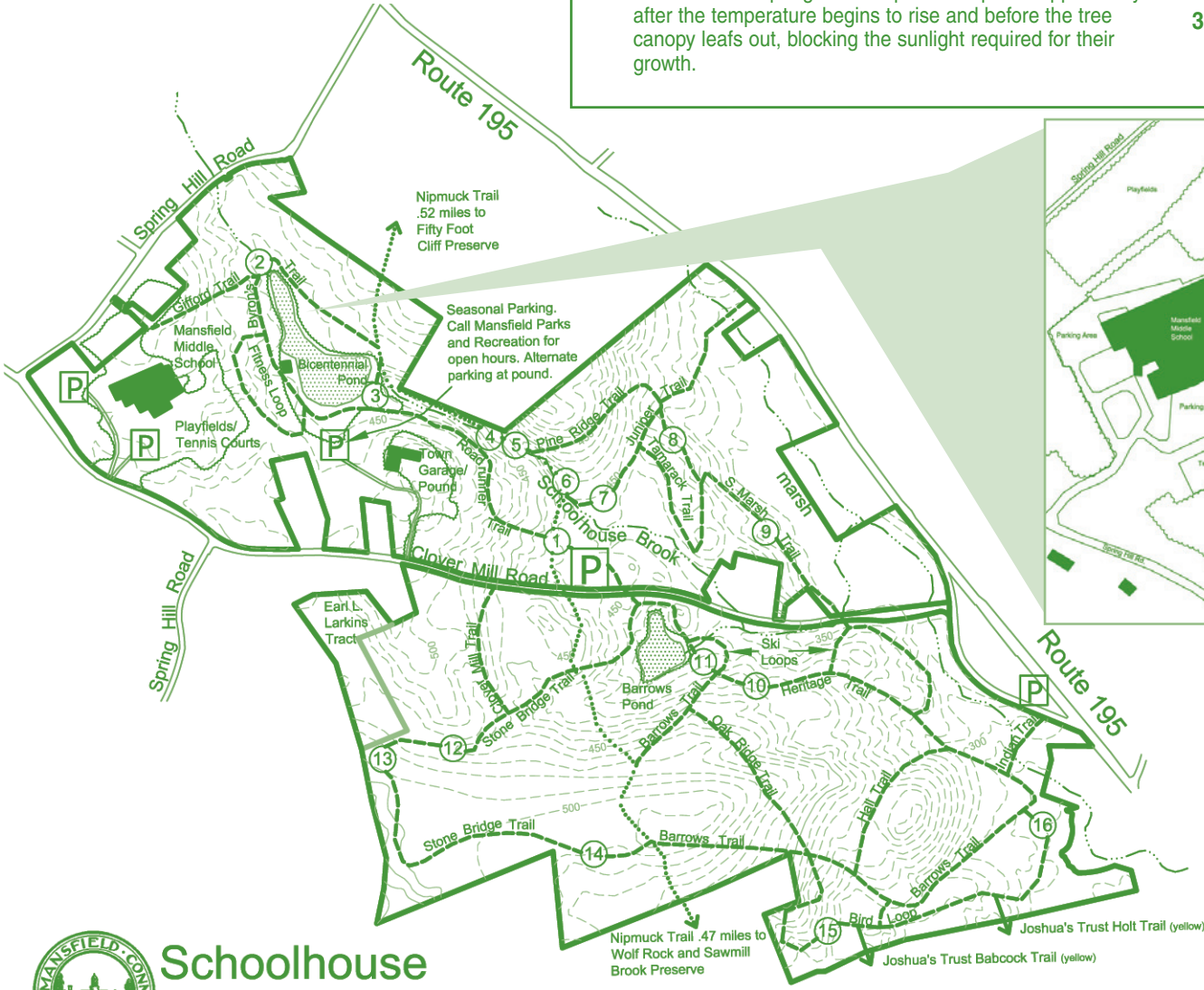
Schoolhouse Brook Park was established in 1957 when the Town purchased the first 100 acres of the park from a local farmer. Since then, the Town has added parcels to the park to reach its present size of 455 acres. The park is mostly wooded and contains Bicentennial Pond, Barrows Pond and Schoolhouse Brook.



trail guide

There are 8.54 miles of blazed hiking trails within the Town boundaries. The Town trails (blazed in white) and Nipmuck Trail (blazed in blue) wind through the following points of interest:

1. **Spring Wildflowers** - Come to this spot to witness the first flowers of spring. These ephemeral plants appear only after the temperature begins to rise and before the tree canopy leafs out, blocking the sunlight required for their growth.
2. **Wetland Habitat** - A footbridge allows easy passage across Schoolhouse Brook where it enters Bicentennial Pond. Take a moment to notice the plant and animal wildlife at both the brook's edge and the pond's edge. Can you notice a difference between the two?
3. **Bicentennial Pond** - This pond was created for the 1976 bicentennial. It is the site of community recreational activities, including summer bathing, picnicking and concerts.



Bicentennial Pond

0125250

N

Legend

<div></div>	Town Trail (white)
<div></div>	Nipmuck Trail (blue)
<div></div>	Brook / Intermittent Watercourse

SOURCE INFO: Topography taken from USGS maps. Treelines, waterbodies and other physical features from aerial photographs. This map and GPS Trail date by UCONN Program of Landscape Architecture. All measurements are approximate.



Schoolhouse Brook Park



SOURCE INFO: Topography taken from USGS maps. Treelines, waterbodies and other physical features from aerial photographs. This map and GPS Trail date by UCONN Program of Landscape Architecture. All measurements are approximate.

Revised: March 2006

Legend

- Town Trail (white)
- Nipmuck Trail (blue)
- P

Parking Area
- Topographic Line
- Brook / Intermittent Watercourse
- #

Trail Guide Points of Interest

4. **Glacial Activity** - As the trail winds closer to the brook's edge, notice the rock debris lining the brook and the embankment. A glacier deposited these rocks and boulders 15,000 years ago.
5. **Old Stone Dam** - Notice the large stone ledge in the center of the brook. The remnants of stonewalls to either side of this ledge are the remains of a dam that was constructed for the purpose of powering a sawmill. Years of water running over this ledge have carved mini canyons into its surface.
6. **Quartz Deposits** - Take a moment to notice the large chunks of quartz on the opposite bank of the brook. A glacier likely deposited these large minerals that shimmer in the summertime sun.
7. **Evergreen Forest** - As the trail winds along the bottom of the slope, note the large spruces, hemlocks and white pines. Deer have browsed on seedling trees.
8. **Stone Wall Junctures** - In Connecticut, stonewalls are commonplace, but it is often difficult to determine their original purpose. The remains of barbed wire along these walls are a clue that they may have been constructed for the enclosure of a livestock pasture.
9. **Marsh and Plantation** - The open area down slope is a marsh with cattails and invasive giant reed (phragmites) growing in open water. Muskrats and many birds depend on this marsh for food and shelter. Note the plantation of spruces planted in a grid pattern growing on the opposite side of the trail.
10. **Hardwood Forest** - Here the dominant tree species are hardwoods. Well-drained soil allows these beeches, oaks and maples to thrive.
11. **Pond View West** - As the trail winds around Barrows Pond take a moment to notice the beauty of the pond and the plants, waterfowl and aquatic wildlife that inhabit it. Note the stone dam, which was part of a former mill operation.
12. **Stone Bridge** - The trail crosses a seasonal brook on a stone pathway across it that was built to serve as a bridge during high water.
13. **Old Stone Walls** - This stonewall was for a property boundary, rather than a pasture enclosure.
14. **Stone Ledge** - As the trail winds downhill, note the massive stone ledge extending hundreds of feet almost parallel to the north side of the trail. Like the glacial deposits mentioned earlier, such bedrock outcrops appear frequently in Connecticut.
15. **Interior Forest Wildlife** - Stop to listen for bird songs in this area. Thrushes and warblers, which survive best in deep woods, are abundant here in spring and summer.
16. **Old Orchard Remains** - As small clearings in the woods become visible here, take note of the apple trees, which are remnants of a former orchard.